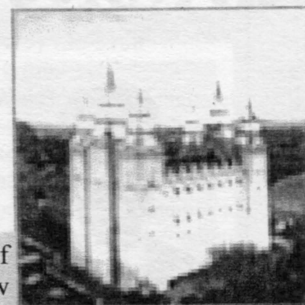


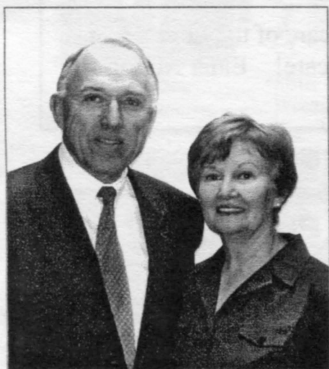
# VOICE OF THE VINEYARD



"Yea, I would declare unto every soul, as with the voice of thunder, repentance and the plan of redemption, that they should repent and come unto our God, that there might not be more sorrow upon all the face of the earth." (Alma 29:2)

## President's Message

**Here we are with another new year.** We are most blessed to have either part of this year or the whole year to devote our complete time and energy to that which is of most value in this world of ours. What we are about is the rhyme and reason for this earth's existence and our very existence. I find it interesting that in this work we are so



based on the ordinance of Baptism. I am sure that, at times, missionaries think that their Mission President is only interested in baptisms. One has to ask himself, if that is so, why? This question becomes more perplexing when we read what Nephi said of our Church, "... we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins." (2 Nephi 25:26)

I am sure you have heard it said that the Atonement is not a part of the gospel of Jesus Christ, it is the gospel. It is interesting to see how our God relates all things symbolically to the Savior and His Atonement. Nothing could be more evident than in the ordinance of Baptism. First, baptism by immersion under the hands of a legal administrator, one empowered to bind on earth and seal in heaven, is the initiatory ordinance into the Church on earth and into the celestial kingdom in the world to come. True-water baptisms are performed by complete immersion. Symbolically, this represents and bears record of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Rom. 6:1-12). Baptism is symbolic of a new birth, with the same elements being present as in our natural birth, i.e. water, blood and spirit. (Moses 6:59-60) Interestingly these elements were also present in the circumstances surrounding the atoning sacrifice of our Lord. (John 19:28-37; 1 John 5:5-12) Through the ordinance of baptism, attention is focused on that most transcendent of all events, the Atonement.

We teach our investigators that baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost cleanses us of sin by water and fire. Upon Paul's conversion he was instructed to "*Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins.*" (Acts 22:16) Water was symbolic of washing away our sins. Likewise fire has been symbolized as a purifying and cleansing agent. Nephi taught, "*Then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost.*" (2 Nephi 31:17)

These are powerful symbols but we must never let symbols distort our understanding of reality. Water does not wash away sin and the "fire" of the Holy Ghost is not the ultimate cause of purification and cleansing. Speaking to Adam and his posterity, the Lord gives the correct understanding: "Ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven, of water and of the Spirit, **and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten**; that ye might be sanctified from all sin" (Moses 6:59 and Revelation 1:5) John taught, "*The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*" (1 John 1:7)

*"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

Therefore, it all comes back to the blood of Christ, Gethsemane, the Atonement. When we focus on baptism, then, what are we focusing on? We talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ etc. It always comes back to the blood of Christ. Without Christ's atoning blood there could be no baptism of a saving character. It is the Atonement of Jesus Christ that gives profound meaning and spiritual substance to the ordinance of baptism. Without the Atonement all the symbolism in the world would be to no avail.

Paraphrasing Elder Ballard, nothing happens until there is a Baptism. It is the straight and narrow path that few find. May it be our focus during our missions and may we realize we are only focusing on our Lord, His Atonement and the true meaning of life.

President Moeller

# Welcome New Missionaries!



Arrived Dec. 26th:  
Elder Berardi  
Marquett Heights, Illinois

**INCOMING  
JANUARY 17,  
2007**



Elder Magpantay  
Neubiberg,  
Deutschland

\* Spanish



Elder Chiu  
Holland Landing,  
Ontario, Canada



\*Sister Miller  
Weedsport,  
New York



Sister Crowe  
Lethbridge,  
Alberta, Canada



Elder Ferguson  
Lancaster,,  
California



Sister Widdison  
Palmdale,  
California



Sister Fulk  
Waterford,  
Michigan



Elder Evans  
Lawrenceville,  
California



Sister Ikahiifo  
Hawthorne,  
California

*"Even before they were born, they, with many others, received their first lessons in the world of spirits and were prepared to come forth in the due time of the Lord to labor in his vineyard for the salvation of the souls of men." D&C 138:56*

## Departing Missionaries

**"Remember the worth of souls** is great in the sight of God." I know it, you know it and God knows it. Remember the words of Alma 36:24 *"Yea, and from that time even until now, I have labored without ceasing, that I might bring souls unto repentance, that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost."* Brothers and sisters,

the only way we can enjoy our mission is to **WORK! WORK! WORK!** It is not easy but I know it's worth it; trust me, I know. If you want to enjoy your mission, be obedient.

I'm grateful for the time that I have had to serve the Lord, and to be around all of you Fakatafa Elders and Sisters. Remember who you are and why you are here. Thanks to all of my companions for their love and support and stop being "Fiepoto." I know that Jesus is the Christ, Joseph was a prophet, the Book of Mormon is the word of God, and Gordon B. Hinckley is the prophet. Good luck my friends. *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* 2 Timothy 4:6-7

'Ofa Lahi Atu, Sister Pahulu

Sister Asinate Liva Pahulu  
Liahona High School  
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Nuku'alofa, TONGA



**My heart is full** of gratitude towards my Father in Heaven for taking me out of the world for these two years



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Hyrum-  
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and for expanding my knowledge and testimony of the Atonement, the Restoration, and of the mighty change of heart that we must all receive, being changed from the natural man to a sanctified son or daughter of God. As we have all been taken out of the world, the challenge as I see it is to take the world out of us. I have had many wonderful experiences on my mission, most of them have shaped me and have molded me into what the Lord would have me be. Yet we all have those experiences and times when it seems as though the adversary has complete control of the situation, its been those times when I have reminded myself that, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." I know that as we serve with all of our heart, might, mind, and strength, we will always triumph over evil.

I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the Almighty, and that through him the church and gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored with all of its saving ordinances and priesthood power and authority. Jesus is the Christ, and God lives. And I know that we have been reserved to come forth at this day and time to declare it to all the world. Elder Hyrum K. Wheeler

**When I experienced my own conversion,** a mission became a top priority for the same reason as the sons of Mosiah as stated in MOS 28:30 *"Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to quake and tremble."*

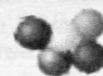
So I came on my mission to save many souls but I found that a mission isn't as easy as Ammon makes it sound. Some days it feels much more like how Aaron's mission started out. So even though people didn't line up to get baptized after one street contact, the mission has made me a better disciple of Christ and member of his Church. And I will continue to be a missionary throughout my life.

Sister Godfrey

Sister Hayley Godfrey  
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Converse, TX 78109  
(210) 650-3801



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



20 Jan	Elder Esekia	10 Feb	Elder Thornton
23 Jan	Elder Stallings	13 Feb	Sister Grandon
25 Jan	Sister Crowe	13 Feb	Elder Haueter
29 Jan	Elder Matthew	19 Feb	Elder Wright



# "Master Teacher"



ELDER FARLEY



ELDER VISSER



ELDER KIM



ELDER MALOUF

UTAH SALT LAKE CITY MISSION 2006



## Message from Elder Norton "The Car Man"

No Surprise!!! Winter is here in full bloom! Roads are slippery and driving is scary! In December, 50 of our 57 cars were accident free and 54 designated drivers retained their driving privilege!?!

Make sure your windows are clear of ice and snow before moving your car. Please **SLOW DOWN** and drive with **EXTREME CAUTION**. Park your cars if the weather is bad!

Because of the frigid weather, we will not compete for clean car awards at the next Zone Conference. However, please keep your car very clean on the inside and somewhat clean on the outside and empty 'Litter Bag' on a regular basis. If you have a Chevrolet Malibu with a remote entry (clicker) that doesn't work, then please let me know — hopefully Chevrolet will replace them!

Please be careful and take good care of the Lord's property. May you have His protecting care! Elder Norton

## Assistants to the President

Dear Elders and Sister,

In Roman mythology, the two-headed god Janus was the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings and endings. Janus held the power to look both backward and forward. His most apparent remnant in modern culture is his namesake, the month of January. They named the first month of the year "January" because it stands as the gateway as the old year comes to a close and the new year lies ahead. The new year provides many opportunities to review the success, trials and joy which have taken place in the last year. It allows us to do some soul-searching and ask ourselves, "Did I reach my full potential in 2006?" and "What changes will I make in 2007?" Elders and Sisters, we invite you to look back over 2006 and find joy in the service rendered to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and then look forward to the opportunities 2007 affords us to build our relationship with our Heavenly Father. We invite you to set goals and work towards becoming a better instrument in the hands of the Lord, and allow the promise given to us by the prophet Ether 12:27, "And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them."

May the Lord bless each of you as you diligently work to

bring others unto Him. We thank you for your hard work and love you for your desire to serve.



Elder Carter &  
Elder Mourelatos



### Baptisms:

	Nov	Dec
Granite.....	7.....	11
Helaman.....	23.....	23
Magna.....	18.....	12
Olympus.....	7.....	15
Pioneer.....	32.....	20
Temple.....	13.....	10
Tooele.....	22.....	16
West Valley.....	10.....	20
Wyoming.....	9.....	7

### Mission Totals:

November	157
December	134

### Congratulations!

#### CERTIFIED TEACHER

ELDER SCHMOLDT

#### SKILLED TEACHER

ELDER FARLEY

ELDER PUCHETA

### Zone Conference

#### Jeopardy Winners:

*Congratulations to  
Temple Zone,  
Magna Zone, and  
Granite Zone!  
(Breakfast was great!)*

Elder Child: "It's the Lord's work, we do the best we can and then we leave the rest to Him. Matt 25:15, we are all different, with different abilities. Don't compare yourself to other missionaries. Just do the best you can, magnify your own abilities." January 2007 Mission

# Departing Missionaries

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I mean. But not everyone can be Asian. Take luck! I love you all, Elder Kim

**It seems like a dream,**

2 years just isn't that long. What an opportunity it has been to be a servant of Jesus Christ, to proclaim the Gospel, to gather scattered Israel! I look back on the people I've met and taught and it is nothing less than a miracle; to see lives changed, and the gospel light shine in what was once a dark place.

It is a wonderful blessing that we are a part of this work, although we are but a small part, for God does the work. We prepare and grow so that God can use us.

*D&C 1:23 "That the fullness of my gospel might be proclaimed by the weak and the simple unto the ends of the world, and before kings and rulers."*

This is Christ's church, led by a prophet of God. I know that God the father and Jesus Christ appeared to Joseph Smith in answer to his humble prayer. oku ou fiefia i ha fangamalie na'a ku ma'u ke u ngaue fakataha mo e kainga Tonga. Sisu ko e Kalaisi! Na'a ne mate ma tau tolo. ia Kalaisi oku ne huhu'i a e tau ngaahi anga hala. Te tau toe faka taha mo e otua. OFA ATU. Keep the Faith, Love, Elder Wilde

*D&C 1: 4-5 "And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days. And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them"*

**The time has come** and gone so fast. These past 18 months have changed my life so much for the better. I know now, more than ever, how real our Father in Heaven is, I have felt his presence through this whole journey. I know now more



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than ever before that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior and Redeemer of the world. This is His church. Joseph Smith is a prophet of God, the fullness of the everlasting gospel was restored to the earth through Him. The Book of Mormon truly testifies of Christ. I have come to know, through my own experience, that it is absolutely the word of God.

I know that the work we are doing is the work of God, only God could be responsible for so many miracles. I know this work will go forward, I will always be grateful for my opportunity to be a part of it. It's hard to leave, but I know the Lord still has a great work for me to do, and I look forward to what the future brings.

Love, Sister Richart



**President James E. Faust said,**  
"If you will lose yourself in missionary service, you will find indescribable joy." What a privilege and honor it has been to serve the Lord, to experience that joy. I've come to a more sure knowledge that

this gospel is true, that Joseph Smith was a prophet, and of the living reality of our Savior, and that He truly is more actively engaged in each of our lives than we know. And because of the miracles that I've seen, I know that there was no exaggeration in envisioning Him working with me, side by side. My eyes continue to open to the gospel light, little by little, if you know what



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**Well, the day has come** where I must say goodbye to the Utah Salt Lake City Mission. I know was not a perfect missionary or even a great companion to some of my companions, but I do think of a quote from Joseph Smith, *"The Lord calls us in our weakness, but he qualifies us for his work."* I know when I came into the field I was weak, I still am, but because the Lord qualifies, I am so much stronger.

I am grateful for the things I have learned from all my companions. Each has a different background with different strengths and weaknesses, and each helped this time to be the most edifying experience of my life. I love them and am grateful for their testimonies and service.

*"...I am a man; and man in the beginning was created after the image of God, and I am called by his Holy Spirit to teach these things unto this people, that they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just and true; And a portion of that Spirit dwelleth in me, which giveth me knowledge, and also power according to my faith and desires which are in God." (Alma 18:34-35)*

I was called by God "to teach these things unto this people" and so were each of you. This is Christ's Church, Joseph Smith was a Prophet, The Book of Mormon is the word of God and now I bid unto you, adieu (to God). Elder Chad Guertin

**Wow! I can't believe** how fast the time has gone by! I still remember being in the MTC with my psychotic companion thinking I'd never get



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out of that prison. J/k! It was a million times worth it. The mission is definitely the hardest thing I have ever done, but it has also been the best and most rewarding.

I never forget all the things I have learned, the people I've met and the lives I've seen changed. There will always be a place in my heart for Salt Lake City!

The church is true. Joseph Smith was a prophet. I love being a missionary and sharing the message of the restored gospel with my brothers and sisters. It really is where we can find true happiness. Al programa de español: misioneros del mundo. Gracias por ser mi familia por 18 meses. Hna. Burkhart—pues, eres mi hija. ¡portate bien! Hna. Quiros—mi hermanita. Gracias por todo y womas a bailar regeton pronto en Panama. Hna. Vaka—tuku ho'o mohe! Fomo ke Liua! Tuku ho'o sio ki ho lole! ¡viva la zona Helaman!

Love, Hna. Laurence

**"High on a Mountaintop** a banner is unfurled," indeed it has "in Deseret's sweet peaceful land, on Zion's Mount behold it stand." It has been a miracle that I got to serve

a mission, especially here in Salt Lake City. As the sons of Mosiah were directed by the Lord to "Go forth among the Lamanites, thy brethren, and establish my word; yet ye shall be patient in long-suffering..." and He tells them that they shall be instruments in His hands unto the salvation of many souls." This promise with the direct commandment to go and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ was given to me and to all of us.

I am eternally grateful for my chance to serve the Lord. I know without a shadow of a doubt that the church is true, that Joseph was prophet, that the Book of Mormon is true, that President Hinckley, the prophet of the Lord, and that our Savior is at the head of this, His church. *Sed de buen animo Zona de Helaman ustedes son los mejores. Quiero cada uno de ustedes. Gracias a todos por su apoyo en todo lo que hize. A todos mis companeros gracias por sus ejemplos, consejos, palabras y amistades. Si se pueden hacerlo Helaman. Elder Cross*

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